

# CITY NEWS

*The new perspective on city living*

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## STATE ANNOUNCES LAW SUITS AGAINST FOUR CORPORATE DEFENDENTS

Governor, Attorney General and State Treasurer allege that defendants are responsible for more than \$150 million in New Jersey State pension losses.

TRENTON Governor James E. McGreevey, Attorney General David Samson and State Treasurer John McCormac recently announced that they are filing four lawsuits against corporate defendants responsible for more than \$150 million in State pension system losses: Qwest Communications Inc.; Electronic Data Systems Corporation (EDS); Sears Roebuck and Co.; and Tyco International Ltd.

The lawsuits will seek to recoup enormous losses that allegedly resulted from misconduct by the defendants and certain of their corporate officers. The State has retained outside counsel to handle these securities fraud cases.

"We must hold these corporations accountable and protect the interests of New Jersey taxpayers and pension members," said Governor McGreevey. "These lawsuits will send a powerful message to corporate leaders, on behalf of all investors, that those who commit securities fraud will face the consequences. Our citizens work hard for their money. We will defend their financial interests, just as we are defending the integrity of the State's investment process."

Attorney General Samson said additional cases related to losses to the State's investment portfolio will be filed soon with the assistance of outside counsel.

"We have lined up some of the best attorneys in this specialized and highly technical area of securities litigation practice to recoup these huge pension losses, which in many instances are directly attributable to corporate mismanagement, misconduct and greed," said Attorney General Samson. "The selection of these legal teams followed an exhaustive review process that looked closely at comprehensive statements of qualifications submitted by interested law

See LAWSUITS, Page 5

## School bus drivers DUI check bill advances



TRENTON — An released legislation Joseph V. Doria Jr., Matt Assembly panel recently Assemblymen John McKeon, Ahern, and Paul Sarlo sponsored

to expand the scope of background checks individuals must undergo before securing jobs as school bus drivers.

In addition to the criminal history record check required under current law, the legislation Assembly Bill (A-2166) would require, as a condition of employment, that all school bus driver applicants to undergo record checks for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations. The measure also would help bring the state in compliance with new safety provisions imposed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Federal regulations mandate that a person convicted of driving under the influence after obtaining a commercial driver's license will be suspended from his employment.

The N.J. bill would expand

See SCHOOL BUS, Page 7

## NJ toughens prevailing wage penalties

TRENTON — Governor James E. McGreevey recently signed into law Senate Bill 576, drastically increasing the penalties for violation of New Jersey's Prevailing Wage Act. The Governor was joined by Labor Commissioner Al Kroll, Senate President Richard J. Codey, Assembly members Gary Guear, Arline Friscia and George Geist, as well as NJ AFL-CIO President Charlie Wolkanech.

"With this new law, we are sending a clear message to employers if you violate the Prevailing Wage Act, you will pay, and you will pay a hefty price," said McGreevey. "I would like to thank Senate President Codey and Senator Matheussen, as well as Assemblymen Guear and Geist, for their leadership in getting this legislation passed."

"An honest day's work deserves an honest day's pay," said Senator Richard J. Codey, (D-Essex). "Today we move one step forward towards securing such pay for all men and women who work on public contracts in the state of New Jersey."

Currently, New Jersey's Prevailing Wage Act ensures that workers who are employed by government contracts

*"With this new law, we are sending a clear message to employers if you violate the Prevailing Wage Act, you will pay, and you will pay a hefty price."*

Gov. James E. McGreevey

receive a fair wage. The Act also sets pay at a level that is equivalent to union wages for each profession within the contracting field. However, the penalty for violation of the Prevailing Wage Act has not been updated for almost 20 years.

The new law increases the penalties tenfold that the Commissioner of Labor is authorized to collect when employers violate the prevailing wage law. For the first violation, administrative penalties would increase from \$250 to \$2,500. For subsequent violations, administrative penalties would increase from \$500 to \$5,000.

"Penalties for breaking the prevailing wage law should be significant and not just a slap on

the wrist," said Guear. "Too often, unscrupulous contractors opt to pay the penalties because they are cheaper than the cost of increased wages."

"It is of the utmost importance to protect the rights of employees and this legislation will provide additional support to make certain that they receive the earnings they deserve," said Matheussen.

"The prevailing wage act is an important cornerstone to public works projects throughout New Jersey," said Geist. "It provides a living wage for workers, levels the playing field among contractors, and reinforces the public's expectations that a quality project will be constructed for public use."

Senate Bill 576, which passed the Senate on March 4, 2002, was sponsored by Senators Codey (D-Essex) and John Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester). S-576 was substituted for A-1344 in the Assembly, where it was sponsored by Assemblymen Gary Guear (D-Mercer/Middlesex) and George Geist (R-Camden/Gloucester).

The measure has received support from the New Jersey League of Municipalities. The State Department of Labor's website contains a list of firms

*"An honest day's work deserves an honest day's pay. Today we move one step forward towards securing such pay for all men and women who work on public contracts in the state of New Jersey."*

Senator Richard J. Codey

and individuals that have been debarred in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act from engaging in or bidding on Public Works Contracts in New Jersey. The department's Division of Wage and Hour Compliance makes the official debarment status determinations with respect to Public Works Contract eligibility.

To review the state's debarment list visit: [www.state.nj.us/labor/lss/debarment.html](http://www.state.nj.us/labor/lss/debarment.html). For questions about a debarment status call the Division of Wage and Hour Compliance at (609) 292-2283.

# Curious Observer?

Did you hear the story about the bus driver who, while driving along a detour route, threatened over the intercom to take the passengers to "the Taliban" when they became rowdy and criticized his driving. Several passengers, sensitive to the reality of hijacks and terrorism, immediately called the police on their cell phones. The local police, sensitive to the threat of terrorism, put up a road block and surrounded the bus. They were not amused to learn that the bus driver was simply suffering from poor people management skills. The driver was given a summons for disturbing the peace. The bus driver gives a new meaning to the precaution of counting to ten before speaking in anger.

Did you hear the story about the junior high school that battled an ongoing problem of 12-year-old girls, enthralled with the grown up behavior of wearing lipstick, engaging in the childish practice of kissing the bathroom mirror to leave their imprint. The youngsters ignored posted notices and pleas from the school principal. The principal finally held a meeting in the bathroom with the offenders, and asked the janitor to explain how difficult it was to remove the lipstick stains from the mirror. The janitor, a man of few words, dipped his squeegee into a toilet bowl, and vigorously scrubbed the lipstick-stained mirror. The young ladies immediately stopped kissing the mirror. The janitor gives a new meaning to what it means to be being an educator.

Did you hear the deafening silence following the suicide bomber attacks that killed ten Kenyans and three Israeli tourists in the village of Musamarini last week.

Imagine living in a region of thatched dirt huts where you spend your days eking out tomatoes, mangos, and coconuts, and your village is suddenly bombed by the foreign enemy of other nations.

Imagine knowing that the only reason your friends and family members died is because you live in a tourist area.

But where is the international outcry for the families of those ten Kenyans. Why has it taken so long for the local police and government to provide information to the survivor? Do you hear the deafening silence? Where is the humanitarian response?

**Do you have an observation you want to share?**

Send it to: **Curious Observer**

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Or email it to: [Editorial@Citynewsnetwork.com](mailto:Editorial@Citynewsnetwork.com)

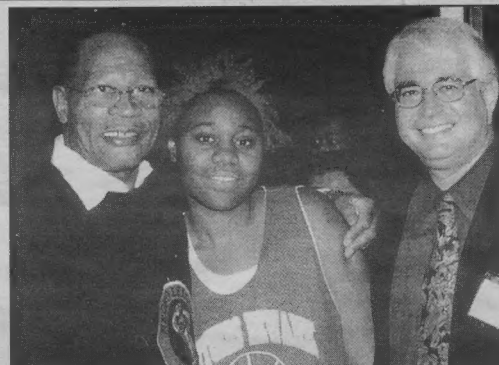


**Warm Welcome** — U.S. Congressman Donald Payne (D-NJ) welcomes community to the Rutgers-Newark first "Newark Day", pre-college program and community.



**Pre-college Inspiration** — Dr. Marcia Brown, Associate Provost for Student Affairs and Community Outreach at Rutgers-Newark addresses participants. The Newark Day event included a campus tour, and workshops on the college planning process and admissions to Rutgers. Hundreds of residents attended.

**College Prep** — Ken Coles, Project Manager of Project Grad of Newark informs students of his organization's goal to prepare area students for academic success from pre-kindergarten through the 12th grade.



**Mayor Meets Scarlet Lady Knight** — Newark Mayor Sharpe James (I) embraces unidentified Rutgers Basketball team member while Rutgers-Newark Provost Steven J. Diner looks on, during the Newark Day program.



**Cory's Brother** — Cary Booker, Associate Dean of Rutgers Academic Foundation Center is greeted by Timothy Brown, Student Counselor of the university's Upward Bound Program.



**Words of Encouragement** — Ras Baraka, a native of Newark, educator and Newark Deputy Mayor motivates participants during "Newark Day".



*The "Newark Day" photos on this page were provided by Gary Fagan, a student at Rutgers-Newark*

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# Sharpton: 2002 election makes my Presidential run more necessary

By Hazel Trice Edney  
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The Rev. Al Sharpton says the defeats that many Democrats suffered on Election Day expose the party's flawed campaign strategy and proves that it must move in another direction in order to win elections.

"When you do an analysis of how the Democrats lost, they lost because they ran away from their base," says Sharpton, who is exploring a possible run for president. "This whole decade-long reach for the Right-wing, or what they now call the independent White male vote, has been a hallucination. It energizes and makes my campaign more necessary."

Sharpton has formed an exploratory committee and has begun raising money, but says he will not announce his decision until early next year. Some political analysts believe that he will not likely win the Democratic nomination, but could help the party revive its message to grassroots people and excite African-Americans to the polls if he decides to run as a Democrat. Jesse Jackson was able to do that in his presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988.

"If Sharpton is able to capitalize on the Democratic Party's leadership and the confusion in the message and so forth, then that enhances what he's trying to do because he believes the Democratic Leadership Council has taken the party to the right," says University of Maryland political scientist Ron Walters, a former adviser for Jackson's presidential bids. "He believes if he runs, he will pull the party back to the Left. This presents Al Sharpton with a golden opportunity to mount a campaign of political leverage inside the party, the same thing Jesse did."

Sharpton says his issues will distinguish him from other Democrats.

Although a recent survey by the Joint Center on Political and Economic Studies says only 6 percent of African-Americans see the possibility of war against Iraq as a key concern, Sharpton says it will be a distinguishing issue for him.

"We'll be the ones on the front line. Who will die first? And then when oil comes in, who will get less than us? And, who are in the major cities that are targeted in this war on terrorism? So war is a vital issue," he says. "And I'm the only one talking about running who has come out against the war."

Several Democrats who have been mentioned as possible presidential contenders voted with Bush to authorize the war, including Senators Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt.

Sharpton also said he will focus on those issues that are most important to black people, such as jobs and the economy.

Ron Daniels, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York and chairman of the Institute of the Black World



The Rev. Al Sharpton  
21st Century, agrees Sharpton's position on issues will be key.  
"The Sharpton campaign

becomes one of our most important vehicles for changing the Democratic party to have a focus and a message that will resonate with the majority of people in America, the struggling middle class, large numbers of people who are not registered and who don't vote simply because they don't hear themselves being talked to about issues like jobs and income and affirmative action and urban policy," Daniels says. "He's not trying to center himself, he will wage a crusading campaign.... He's a dynamic spokesperson and he will ele-

vate and put on the agenda issues that will not be discussed by the Democratic Party unless he runs."

Not everyone agrees. "I really want to say that Al is on to something there. But will the Democrats listen to him? I doubt it," says Linda Faye Williams, also a political science professor at the University of Maryland.

Williams added, "The problem with Democrats is that they don't appeal to the black vote because they are more frightened of losing the white vote. That's the bottom line."

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# Editorial

## Will Sharpe James achieve Rudy Giuliani's political stature in the press's mind?

Several years ago Daniel A. Biederman was so well regarded by former New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani that he became a member of the Giuliani's 1993 transition team. It seems however, that Mr. Biederman incurred the wrath when he grabbed too quickly for too much power. He stepped out of bounds with the city's center at that time, namely, Mr. Giuliani, when the business improvement districts that he headed were perceived to be gaining power in New York City. The New York Times ran an article titled, "An Admirer of Giuliani Feels His Wrath."

Fast forward to Newark in the year 2002 when six months after voters returned Newark Sharpe James to an unprecedented fifth term, the New York Times runs an article titled, "After Loss in Newark, Opponents Sense Sharpe James's Wrath."

The New York Times article on Mr. James and his objects of wrath both real and imagined was more shrilly written than their article on Mr. Giuliani. It discussed "rumors", and characterized the city of Newark as "this paranoid city." Their article on former Mr. Giuliani and Mr. Biederman did not stoop that low, even though former Mr. Giuliani certainly was as legendary as Mr. James in his treatment of those he perceived to not be on his team, and built his reputation on his brusqueness. After all he did get into a squabble with New York Magazine over one of their bus ads.

The glaring difference in the two articles, however, is that Mr. Biederman was painted as being more deserving of the comeuppance he received from Mr. Giuliani. Mr. James, on the other hand was accused of having "effectively chilled discourse" in Newark as a result of his more than thirty years in public office and the fact that he is also a state Senator. It seems that the power that Mr. James has was one of the key points for The New York Times' article. After all, what politician welcomes those who tried to defeat him into his immediate circle with open arms, six months after the fact. The New York Times article skimmed over the fact that State Senator Ronald Rice, who once opposed Mayor James, is now in his trusted inner circle. Several other members of the James administration have run for office against him in the past, proving that time often heals a multitude of wounds for persons of reason, which Mayor James clearly is.

Given Mr. Giuliani's rise to near deification and the public's seemingly total amnesia about his very public personality conflicts with his former wife and others.

While much of the white-washing of Mr. Giuliani by the media stems from post September 11 sentiments, Mr. Giuliani was clearly his own man, and he was not afraid to take bold, unpopular positions. The New York Times article placed Mayor James squarely in the company of former Mayor Giuliani. Mr. James is also clearly his own man, unafraid to take bold, unpopular positions. This is why the residents of Newark returned him to office five times. Can we look forward to his similar ascension into the main media's annals of great political leaders?

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## National Urban League should hire a woman

By George E. Curry

Eight years ago, the National Urban League took a chance by hiring Hugh B. Price, a person unknown in the national civil rights community, to be its new president. Price is stepping down and the league has a wonderful opportunity to again break with tradition—by hiring a woman.

I didn't say consider hiring a woman. I say do it. How many times have we seen African-Americans "considered" for a job opening, only to later learn that the fix was already in? So, let's skip the charade and go directly to the point.

Hiring a woman as head of the Urban League would represent a bold and refreshing change in civil rights leadership. There are more than enough capable females who could run the National Urban League at least as well as the men running the NAACP, Rainbow/PUSH or the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. And that's on their bad days.

I don't have to name all the

high-profile black women who immediately come to mind for this opening. All of them should be considered, but the search shouldn't stop there. Fortunately, women run or have managed numerous professional groups, including the National Bar Association.

However, it's a different story when it comes to sharing power in our civil rights organizations. In some respects, black men don't treat black women any better than whites treat them. In its 92-year history, the National Urban League has never had a black woman as its head. The NAACP, a year older, has had black women serve as president (Rupert Richardson) and board chair (Margaret Bush Wilson), but has never had a woman serve as its chief spokesperson, a position that was called executive director until Kweisi Mfume assumed his present position as president and CEO.

If the civil rights community refuses to have women as the head of their organizations, they will only be postponing the inevitable. It's only a matter of time—if it hasn't happened already—that when a person of

our race is selected solely on merit, in many instances, that will be a sister. Not because of any gender superiority, but because they have applied themselves. And it's going to get worse if we don't divert more of our young men from the growing prison-industrial complex.

As lethargic as some of our recent leaders have been, we should welcome new faces and new ideas. As Hugh Price demonstrated during his tenure, the solution to every problem facing us can't be effectively addressed by calling a press conference or organizing a march. And on some issues, such as academic achievement, the work must be done away from the glare of television cameras.

It is no longer acceptable for our women leaders to remain in the background or suppress their leadership skills. If a woman is a better leader than a man, then so be it. We all stand to benefit.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com.

## White Ghosts and Black Snipers

*This is the third of a four part commentary by John Sankofa on violence in America*

Ironically, on the morning of Oct. 28, 2002, as prosecutors in Virginia and Maryland jostled over which state would get to flip the switch on the two sniper suspects, the University of Arizona at Tucson (where Carmona once taught public health courses in weapons of mass destruction), was the site of yet another shooting spree.

Robert Flores, who, like (sniper suspect) Muhammad, also is a 41-year old Gulf War Veteran, apparently armed himself with two guns and went on a shooting rampage in the lecture halls at the university's nursing school. Flores killed three female professors before turning a gun on himself.

This all brings to fore the greatest folly that emerged from the Washington-area shootings—the myth promoted by national media that now that the suspects are captured, and "the gun is off the street," we return to normal. We need to take a hard look at what normalcy in America means:

- There are 17,000 homicides each year, nearly 50 murders each day. The Washington-area sniper accounted for only .06 percent of all homicides that take place each year in America, which means that now that suspects are in custody, we have to figure out how to stop another 16,990 "normal" murders.

- The Bureau of Justice

Statistics reported that between 1976 and 1999 there were 497,000 murders in America—400 each week for more than two decades.

- A study of 36 wealthy nations conducted by Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research has shown that the United States has the highest gun mortality rate—more than 8 times higher than other high-income countries.

The late Harlem-born poet June Jordan once asked: "Who is more violent than we?" Sadly, African-Americans are not immune from the contagion of denial surrounding American violence. A distorted belief prevails among African-Americans that snipers and mass murderers are White, a defensive technicality that overshadows the horrendous and disparate impact of American violence on Black life and culture.

NNPA News Service reported this dubious sentiment in a recent interview with Terone B. Greene, chairman of the Urban League of Greater Richmond, Va., who reflected over early reports that the lead suspect is an African-American. "It shocked the hell out of me that he's Black," Greene told the NNPA, "because you don't see black folk doing anything like that."

George Curry, editor-in-chief of the NNPA News

Service, mostly concurred. Curry writes, "[I]t has been Whites, in large part, who have committed the most heinous crimes."

Of course, both Curry and Greene are correct. Serial killings and mass murders have disproportionately been the psychopathic fancy of white folks throughout U.S. history. In Curry's special report titled, "Do Black Suspected Snipers Stigmatize an Entire Race," he offers a brief but telling summary of sniper and mass murder cases in recent history.

Moreover, one need only briefly recount the historical horrors of slavery, lynching, the Tuskegee experiment, and the Civil Rights Era to understand with certainty that the White-American psyche reigns supreme in the technical category of heinous violence. Alone, the 1998 dragging death and dismemberment of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas, could easily take the trophy for most heinous murder of the decade.

There is, nonetheless, an ignoble tendency among many African-Americans to bask in this racial distinction while often ignoring the appalling, and in many cases unparalleled level of violence committed by African-Americans.

John Sankofa is a health writer who was awarded the 2002 Health Media Fellowship by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

## N.F.L. names first black general manager

(Special to the NNPA)

BALTIMORE — Ozzie Newsome has become the first Black general manager in the National Football League after signing a five-year contract with the Baltimore Ravens.

*"I am proud to do this for him, not because he asked me, but I think that he deserves it," Modell said. "He is, without a question in my opinion, the best, most proficient personnel man in the NFL."*

Art Modell, Ravens owner

Newsome's promotion from senior vice president of football operations comes at a time when the league is under scrutiny from civil rights organizations for lack of diversity in coaching and management. There are currently two Black head coaches among the leagues 32 teams.

"From a historical standpoint, this is very significant," said Newsome, 46, during a news conference at the Ravens' Owings Mills complex. "I think a lot of things have been about timing and where you are and when you are some place. In my life, growing up in the South and in the state of Alabama, there have been a lot of times where I was one of the first."

Ravens owner Art Modell met and formed a relationship with Newsome, as a player and as an administrator, before the franchise moved from Cleveland.

"I am proud to do this for him, not because he asked me, but I think that he deserves it," Modell said. "He is, without a question in my opinion, the best, most proficient personnel man in the NFL."

As a player, Newsome redefined the tight end position, setting a record with 662 career receptions from 1978 to 1990, which earned him a spot in the NFL Hall of Fame. As an administrator, he was the architect of the Ravens' Super Bowl championship team in the 2000 season and has surprisingly transformed a salary-cap-strapped team into a competitive one this season by digging up unknown talent.

## Prudential property agents training for diverse market



Prudential agents pose outside East Brunswick headquarters.

EAST BRUNSWICK — As New Jersey's population becomes increasingly diverse, realtors are working harder than ever to accommodate the specific needs of individuals from a wide range of cultural and religious backgrounds.

According to the 2000 U.S. census, the Garden State is the ninth most ethnically diverse in the nation, with fully 34 percent of its citizen describing themselves as African-America, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander or some other non-white ethnicity. And as an international hub of commerce, New Jersey also attracts a steady stream of international workers here on assignment.

"If you're going to sell real estate in New Jersey, you absolutely have to be able to work with people from other backgrounds, from other cultures," observes Elizabeth Mills, director of relocation for East Brunswick Prudential New Jersey Properties. "In recognition of this fact, every single one of our offices has at least one agent who has participated in our company's diversity training program."

The Prudential New Jersey Properties program lasts a full

three days and provides agents with specific information on how to meet the needs — and be conscious of the sensitivities — of many different groups. Participating agents learn who is likely to be made uncomfortable by a casual pat on the back or be offended by a particular type of clothing, business card etiquette. They even learn how to bow, when that manner of greeting is more appropriate than shaking hands.

And particularly when dealing with those born overseas, there can indeed be differences in customs to keep in mind. For example, people from India generally consider a simple wink to be extremely rude, perhaps even representative of a sexual advance, while the western hand sign for "Okay" is extremely impolite to most Russians.

"Obviously, it's impossible for our agents to become expert in the subtleties of every culture in the world," Mills says. "What we're trying to do is provide a good, strong foundation and encourage everyone to be sensitive. The key is for our clients to realize we accept them for who they are and want them to feel comfortable."

## Paterson receives first U.E.Z. check from state Commerce

TRENTON — Commerce, Secretary William D. Watley presented a check in the amount of \$1.5 million Monday to Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres for the City of Paterson's Urban Enterprise Zone (U.E.Z.) Revolving Loan Program Phase II.

Paterson's Revolving Loan Program is designed to help attract new businesses to the zone by encouraging private investment through loans to credit worthy U.E.Z. certified businesses for new construction, purchase of existing buildings, capital improvements and purchase of capital equipment.

The city is also due to receive \$150,000 for a Sidewalk Matching Grant/Phase II, which will improve the negative appearance and image of streets in the U.E.Z. zone.

Paterson was one of 12 New Jersey municipalities approved recently for U.E.Z. projects.

"New Jersey's Urban Enterprise Zone program remains at the forefront of the state's urban revitalization efforts," said Secretary Watley. "The program has been successful in advancing employment and investment that is integral to our core mission."

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## AFRICA GETS FIRST BRAILLE NEWSPAPER

(NNPA)—A braille newspaper for the blind—believed to Africa's first—is being launched in Ethiopia.

The 40-page "Ethiopian Braille"—which will cover news, health issues, sport, politics—will give Ethiopia's 100,000 blind people access to information that they are currently excluded from, says Emebet Zewde who is launching the newspaper. Blind people can listen to the radio or television, she says, but they cannot keep the information.

"With a newspaper people can refer back to it time and time again," says Emebet. "They can use it as an information library." For blind people the paper will be free of charge. "There is widespread poverty among the blind and so we cannot charge for the paper," Emebet says.

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## Transplant gives mother second chance in life

NAPS — The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) has been awarded a contract from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to continue operating the National Registry of unrelated marrow and blood stem cell donors.

For the past 15 years, the NMDP has dedicated itself to facilitating marrow and blood stem cell transplants from unrelated donors for patients with life threatening blood diseases. With the support of a dynamic Network of more than 460 partners, thousands of patients have received their second chance at life and the opportunity to turn their dreams into reality.

Tonya Ghant is one of those patients who received her second chance at life through the NMDP. Life was great for Tonya before she fell ill. "I had just had a baby, went back to work doing private duty nurs-



ing," Tonya said. All of a sudden just gradually, her health deteriorated. Her doctors diagnosed leukemia.

"My daughter was just two at that time. I didn't know who was going to take care of my daughter. I didn't know if I was going to be around to raise her," Tonya said.

Without a marrow or blood stem cell transplant, Tonya would most likely die. She needed a donor for her transplant. Since her family was not suitable donors, Tonya needed a

stranger to give her a second chance at life. Tonya is African American and would most likely match someone who shares her heritage.

"We were desperate to find a matching donor for my transplant. When the NMDP found my donor, it was the best Christmas present I could have received that year," Tonya said. "The NMDP was my lifeline. I now have my whole life ahead of me."

Tonya will receive her nursing degree in a few months. She plans to specialize in oncology where she can show patients that she is a living miracle.

"The continued relationship with HRSA will help the NMDP expand its lifesaving work. The future holds great promise for extending and improving lives through innovative stem cell therapies," said Jeffrey Chell, M.D., NMDP chief executive officer.

## Elizabeth, Plainfield Health Center collaborate to sustain Elizabethport Health Center

ELIZABETH — Mayor Chris Bollwage recently announced that Plainfield Health Center (PHC), one of fifteen Federally Qualified Health Centers in New Jersey, will officially make the Elizabeth Port (EPort) Community Health Center a satellite center.

The EPort Center, was initiated and operated by the Rutgers School of Nursing Services until very recently, when the City of Elizabeth assumed responsibility for the program. PHC has been operating the EPort Center for the City of Elizabeth on an interim basis since January of this year.

The EPort Community Health Center has been the essential primary care health facility accessible to the resi-

dents in the area. Elizabeth Port, like parts of Plainfield is a designated Medically Underserved Area and qualifies as a Federally Qualified Health Center. The Plainfield Health Center, the only Federally Qualified Health Center in Union County, has the experience and expertise to establish a satellite FQHC site in the EPort area for the expansion of accessible, duality, primary health care services to the area's uninsured and underinsured populations.

"The Plainfield Health Center was the logical choice when evaluating who could take over the center in Elizabeth," said Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage. To learn more about PHC visit: [www.phcmednet.org](http://www.phcmednet.org).

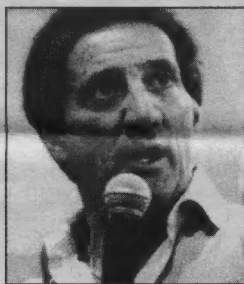
## Former Newark police officer receives the 2002 Frances Black Humanitarian Award in health care

NEWARK — David Toma, a retired 21-year veteran of the Newark Police, recently received the 2002 Frances Black Humanitarian Award in Health Care for his dedicated and inspiring service at the new Columbus Hospital Horizons Detoxification Unit, which opened in April 2002.

Known for his powerful

anti-drug and substance abuse lectures around the world, Toma has returned to Newark and Columbus Hospital to develop and educate staff and patients on the dangers of drugs and substance abuse. The award is presented by the Friends' Health Connection to recognize individuals from its affiliate hospitals and health care facilities who provide extraordinary services and assistant to their institution, staff, and patients.

Since leaving the Newark Police Department, Toma has eclipsed more than 50 years of experience as a leading crusader against drugs and substance abuse. Noted as a 'legend in his own time,' he has given thousands of lectures to more than 50 million children, parents,



teachers, and administrators in schools, civic groups, corporations, behavioral treatment centers, and correctional facilities. He has a reputation for distinctive methods of intervention, and has been credited with helping to turn many away from the evils of drugs and substance abuse.

As the program coordinator at the new Columbus Hospital Detox Unit, Toma uses his strong educational and motivational skills to help patients break their addictions.

Richard Giorgino, administrator/CEO of Columbus Hospital, says, "David has an amazing and unique style of opening the eyes of our substance abuse patients. 'We are excited about his role here at Columbus. Our staff and I look forward to continuing to work with David and expand our Detox Unit to help those in need. David provides excellent training and support for the hospital medical staff by using some of the most effective substance abuse treatment techniques out there today.'"

"Columbus Hospital is such a great institution and has been an important part of Newark for

many years," said Toma. "My family and I have been coming here for more than fifty years, and the hospital still maintains its community and comfortable feeling."

"Working at the Columbus Detox Unit is a way of giving back to my community," Toma said. "It's all about the message-stay away from the drugs, stay away from the alcohol. We each have only one life and one purpose. We are here to help each other."

Toma says that his mission is "not only to help people get through detox, but to inspire them to feel good about themselves. I tell them not to worry about what they've done, and where they've been. It's only about where they are going from here. I put them on the road to recovery and help them believe in themselves again."

Both Toma and Giorgino hope to further develop the Detox Unit and eventually add an aftercare system and expand services to the adolescence age group.

"Someone who is doing upwards of \$500 a day worth of heroin, can't be expected to come in and go through a few days of detox and walk out clean forever," added Toma. "These people need help and support as they begin to adjust to a new way of life."

For many years now, Toma has been traveling around the world giving powerful anti-drug talks. He often follows these up with individual meetings with kids, parents, and counselors. His effectiveness seems to lie in his uncanny ability to make people feel that he

understands and cares about their individual situations. He has seen the forces that lead young people into drugs first hand.

Perhaps it is that empathy that makes him so convincing when he cries, yells, and pleads with teens to stay away from even the first puff on a marijuana cigarette. But he doesn't hesitate to tell them that even if they have started using drugs, they can still quit and make productive lives for themselves.

Toma's success rate is higher than most. Many former drug users credit his talks with being the first critical intervention on their path to recovery.

In addition to the popular television shows based on his life, such as two television series from the seventies—Toma and Baretta, Sylvester Stallone will star in a new film portraying Toma's life.

Toma has also written several books, including "Toma Tells it Straight with Love," and has received honorary awards, including numerous Ph.Ds. In addition to the Frances Black Humanitarian Award, he has received several "Humanitarian of the Year" Awards from various international martial arts organizations.

Toma credits his success to his experience as an undercover detective, and to overcoming his own problems after losing his five-year old son. He says, "I've experienced first-hand what drug addiction can do to a family, and during my career, have witnessed the deaths of many to drug addiction. I consider it my life's mission."

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# Bill authorizing more thorough school bus driver scrutiny nears floor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

upon federal regulations by applying to persons convicted of DUI charges prior to obtaining a commercial driver's license.

"Besides being fully certified and properly licensed, we should be able to guarantee that individuals who transport our children have no history of crime, drug use, or alcohol abuse," said McKeon (D-Essex), who is also the mayor of West Orange. "We can't take any chances with our most precious cargo -- our children."

The measure would ban drivers who amass two drug- or alcohol-related driving offenses within 10 years from securing or renewing school bus driving licenses. In addition, those who refuse to take sobriety tests or drivers who have been convicted of driving under the influence while transporting school children once within the past 10 years would be permanently disqualified.

*"The background check system is in serious need of repair to fully protect students. By thoroughly checking the past actions of prospective bus drivers, hopefully we can prevent tragedy before it strikes... The job of child protection must be an ongoing process that is pursued aggressively and tirelessly."*

Assemblyman Joseph V. Doria

"The background check

system is in serious need of repair to fully protect students," said Doria (D-Hudson), chairman of the Assembly Education Committee. "By thoroughly checking the past actions of prospective bus drivers, hopefully we can prevent tragedy before it strikes."

Current law requires criminal background checks for school bus drivers and other school employees, but there are no provisions to ascertain whether prospective school bus drivers have any history of drug- or alcohol-related motor vehicle violations.

"The state must do all it can to protect students while they are being transported to and from school," said Ahearn (D-Bergen).

"Forty-foot school busses are difficult enough to drive under normal conditions involving rambunctious kids and rush-hour traffic," said Sarlo (D-Bergen). "We cannot

*"Forty-foot school busses are difficult enough to drive under normal conditions involving rambunctious kids and rush-hour traffic. We cannot take a chance with drivers who may be prone to make matters worse by drinking alcohol or taking drugs while transporting children to school."*

Assemblyman Paul Sarlo

take a chance with drivers who may be prone to make matters worse by drinking alcohol or

taking drugs while transporting children to school."

Under the measure, school boards or school bus contractors who assign drivers without first conducting criminal and substance abuse background checks would be fined up to \$5,000 for each violation.

"There is no cargo more precious than school children," said McKeon. "The bottom line is that if we believe there is a possible safety hazard, we're not going to allow these drivers on the road."

"Parents need to know that systems are being put in place for protecting their kids," said Doria. "The job of child protection must be an ongoing process that is pursued aggressively and tirelessly."

The Assembly Education Committee released the bill 8-0. It now goes to the Assembly Speaker, who will decide if and when the measure will be posted for a floor vote.

## NJ cites four businesses in corporate law suit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

*The lawsuit will allege that the pension funds have sustained losses as a result of widespread fraud and accounting improprieties at Tyco.*

submitted by interested law firms. These experts will enable us to pursue all legal avenues to make those responsible pay."

"We have a moral and fiduciary obligation to take every step necessary to safeguard the integrity of New Jersey's pension investment portfolio," said Treasurer John E. McCormac. "We look forward to taking aggressive actions against malfeasance on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of present and future beneficiaries of the pension system and the taxpayers of New Jersey."

Attorney General Samson has retained former Superior Court Judge C. Judson Hamlin to act as the Special Master and coordinator of the litigation on his behalf. Judge Hamlin formerly served as Middlesex County Prosecutor, Chancery Judge for Middlesex County and Presiding Judge for the Middlesex County Civil Division. He has previously been selected by state and federal judges to manage large cases, including national class action litigation.

Judge Hamlin has been assisting in the evaluation of the culpability of the various entities and individuals respon-

sible for losses to the New Jersey pension funds and is making recommendations to Samson and Division of Law Director Douglas K. Wolfson as to the claims to be filed. In addition, as to those suits authorized to be filed by the Attorney General's Office, he has independently reviewed the statements of qualifications submitted by law firms and has made recommendations to the Attorney General's Office regarding what law firms should be selected for particular cases. His evaluation has included efforts to avoid conflicts of interest and to recommend contingent fee arrangements that have been customized for each case based on the type of case, its complexity, the prospect of recovery and the current standards in the region of the country in which the case is to be brought. All of the cases will be handled on a contingent fee basis, and the firms will be responsible for all up-front costs.

**QWEST**— The suit will allege that the defendants engaged in fraud, malicious misrepresentation, negligent misrepresentation, securities fraud in breach of New Jersey's Blue Sky laws and breach of fiduciary duty. More specifically, the complaint will allege that defendants failed to disclose billions of dollars of balance sheet debt generated by swap transactions, and that certain Qwest executives engaged in insider trading. A swap is a transaction in which Qwest sold capacity on its optical telecommunications network to another carrier, while at the same time

*More specifically, the complaint will allege that defendants failed to disclose billions of dollars of balance sheet debt generated by swap transactions, and that certain Qwest executives engaged in insider trading.*

buying a nearly identical amount from the other carrier. The complaint alleges that Qwest recognized the revenue from the sale but booked the corresponding purchase as capital expense rather than an operating cost. This accounting practice is alleged to have improperly inflated Qwest's reported revenues.

Qwest Communications International Inc. named Rich Baer, 45, general counsel and executive vice president in charge of Qwest's legal affairs department in mid-November.

Baer previously served as Qwest's senior vice president and special counsel to Richard C. Notebaert, Qwest chairman and CEO, which included directing the company's response to ongoing federal investigations and coordination of litigation matters.

**EDS**— The State will file papers seeking to be named as lead plaintiff in two actions against EDS pending in federal courts in New York and Texas. The defendants are EDS, its

chairman, its chief executive officer and its chief financial officer. New Jersey's action arises out of purchases of EDS stock by the New Jersey pension system between September 1999 and September 2000. In September 2002, EDS announced that its earnings would fall short of its prior projections by 80 percent. The action alleges that the earnings shortfall may have resulted from improper revenue recognition practices in violation of generally accepted accounting practices.

**SEARS ROEBUCK & CO.**— The State will file a securities class action against Sears Roebuck & Co. and certain of its officers and directors. The complaint will allege that the defendants violated federal securities laws by issuing a series of materially false and misleading statements to the market between January 17, 2002 and October 17, 2002. During that time, the New Jersey pension system acquired more than 500,000 shares of Sears stock. The State will seek to have this case consolidated with lawsuits currently pending in federal district court in Illinois alleging that Sears' materially false statements resulted in overstating revenues and income on its financial statements, thereby artificially inflating the value of its stock. New Jersey will apply for lead-

**TYCO**— The State will file suit against Tyco, certain of its current and former executives including former CEO L. Dennis Kozlowski, former CFO Mark Swartz and former General Counsel Mark Belnick

and its accountants, KPMG LLP. Kozlowski, Swartz and Belnick have been charged by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission with securities fraud for failing to disclose millions of dollars of personal loan benefits received from Tyco and improper, lucrative insider trades of Tyco.

The lawsuit will allege that the pension funds have sustained losses as a result of widespread fraud and accounting improprieties.

Tyco International Ltd announced Tuesday that Gardner G. Courson has been appointed VP, Deputy General Counsel, Litigation. Courson will be responsible for corporate legal issues regarding litigation. He will report to Tyco General Counsel William B. Lytton. Mr. Courson has practiced as a trial lawyer for 28 years, and is admitted to six of the United States Courts of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Courson has successfully handled hundreds of lawsuits across the U.S., focusing on complex employment, labor relations and related business tort issues. He has acted as employers' legal advisor in numerous individual and class actions and is widely viewed as an authority on litigation management, alternative fees and the use of legal technology.

Lytton said, "We're building a strong, professional legal team at Tyco. Gardner Courson has extensive experience in the courtroom dealing with and managing difficult and multifaceted corporate litigation. He will make a valuable contribution."



## A Mississippi Delta survivor tale overflows at Crossroads Theatre

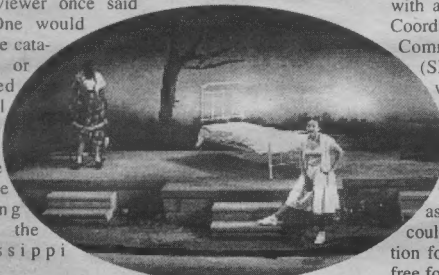
by M. Scheryl Gant

A reviewer once said that "One would have to be catatonic or overdosed not to feel some tingling in the spine while watching 'From the Mississippi Delta.'"

Those words are strikingly true. The drama, which is one of the great triumph-over-adversity memoirs, traces the life of Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland. Holland is an incredible woman who overcame poverty, rape, prostitution and prison to become a civil rights activist, a Ph.D., and an award winning playwright.

Holland was born on August 29, 1944 into a harsh Mississippi Delta existence where her poverty and introduced her to some very harsh realities early on in her life. Her mother, a granny midwife who took in ironing, had

ongoing seasonal affairs with three men.



Young Holland's first dream, to become a majorette was literally kicked to the curb, when she was hit by a car driven by a white woman. Next, Holland was raped by the father of a child she baby sat for. He paid her \$5.00. The incident tore the innocence out of Holland's poor struggling life. She was 11 years old. She kept the incident a secret, believing it would only hurt her mother if she told. She drifted into prostitution and stealing which led her into jail.

After a failed marriage to a filandering husband ended with Holland going

to jail for assault and battery, she became infatuated with a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee building (SNCC) civil rights worker. She pursued him right into the office where he worked. Holland, who was able to write well became an asset because she could document information for the SNCC office's free food program.

Holland returned to jail several more times, but now as a civil rights worker. Through her journey, she met Dr. Martin Luther King, and she went on speaking tours across the nation.

The autobiography story of Holland's life and her self-revintion, "From the Mississippi Delta," will be brought to life on stage at the renown Crossroads Theatre, 7 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick at 8:00 p.m. on Dec. 5, 6, 7, 13, 14; and at 3:00 p.m. matinees on Dec. 7, 8, 14, 15. To reach the Crossroads Theatre Box Office call: 732-545-8100.

## Auction of U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan's portrait adds verve to her life story at Luna Stage



MONTCLAIR — In the late 70s, Barbara Jordan, US Congresswoman from Texas, commissioned popular Texan artist Polsky Morgan to create a portrait of herself as a child with her grandfather.

Described in the book "Barbara Jordan, A SelfPortrait," by Barbara Jordan and Shelby Hearon (1979, Doubleday), the work is "of a tender black man bending over a small black girl".

After Congresswoman Jordan's death from multiple sclerosis, the painting disappeared, and it has only recently resurfaced in the Public Research section of Special Collections at Texas State University.

Ms. Morgan recalls her first meeting with the Congresswoman when she commissioned the work: "I brought my housekeeper's husband for her to meet ... since he agreed to model: he was very tall and a respected church elder (although he ran a string of liquor stores) and he and his wife had sent all nine of their sons through college. (Jordan) said he reminded her of her grandfather and would I mind making the child look as much like her or her sisters as possible. Of course that was no problem."

The artist recollected the dignified manner of this pre-eminent stateswoman. "I'd like to have known more about her but she retained a very dignified distance, not rude, she was a politician, but slightly formal. The other politicians I've done something special for like

the Rockefellers or John Connally were very hale fellows, well met. Flattering, but not as sincere (as Jordan!)."

The new play about Ms. Jordan, "Voice of Good Hope" by Kristine Thatcher, now playing here at Luna Stage through December 8, mentions the portrait. Director Brian Shnipper and Luna's Artistic Director Jane Mandel felt its inclusion in the production to be so important that when they could not locate the original, they requested the artist Polsky Morgan to recreate this special picture.

Polsky Morgan's recreation of this historically significant piece figures prominently in the Luna Stage production. Luna is auctioning this important art work through their website [www.lunastage.org](http://www.lunastage.org); a portion of the proceeds from the auction will go to benefit this not-for-profit theatre which is dedicated to producing exciting, thought provoking plays and to nurturing new playwrights and artists. Bids should be sent to [cmckim@lunastage.org](mailto:cmckim@lunastage.org). The painting will be sold after the production is finished.

For more information about "Voice of Good Hope", or the portrait call Luna Stage, 973-744-3309. Tickets for the performance range from \$15.00 - \$30.00. The performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Luna Stage is located at 695 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair.

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## Handel's Messiah: Essex Chorale's free concert

EAST ORANGE — On Sunday December 8 at 4:00 p.m. the sanctuary of Christ Episcopal Church will be filled with the sound of George Frederick Handel's Messiah sung by the Essex Chorale accompanied by orchestra with Gaylord French as the guest conductor.

The soloists for this performance are Nicole Barrow White, soprano; Patrizia Cante, mezzo-soprano; Curtis Watkins, tenor; and Arthur Woodley, Baritone.

Founded in 1990 by its current music director, Dr. DeCosta A. Dawson, the Essex Chorale is composed of singers from various communities in central and northern New Jersey. It is based at Christ Episcopal Church and annually presents free of charge the complete Messiah in December and at least one Sacred Concert in the spring.

Christ Church is located at 422 Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard (Main St.). For additional information and to audition call 973-8674-3966 or 973-230-4023.

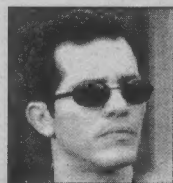


## For movies opening December 09

At the Movies



Niro) whose life is being threatened in this sequel to "Analyze This." **Rated: R**



befriends a classmate with an investment-banker boyfriend, Jack Wimmer. Victor meets Jack, and they instantly connect. Both are hard-core businessmen from two different sides of the legal fence. For the first time, Victor is confronted with a price tag that he will find difficult to pay. **Rated: R**



beat book "The Orchid Thief." **Rated: R**

### Analyze That

Comedy sequel starring Billy Crystal and Robert De Niro. While dealing with issues surrounding his father's death, a psychologist (Crystal) also struggles to help his mobster client (De

### Empire

Victor Rosa (John Leguizamo) is all about the mighty dollar and fashions himself as a businessman on par with Rockefeller, Carnegie, and Bill Gates. His beautiful fiancée, Carmen, a Baruch College student,

### Adaptation

This comedy drama starring Nicolas Cage, Meryl Streep, Chris Cooper, and Tilda Swinton. This is a fascinating "adaptation" of the off-beat book "The Orchid Thief." **Rated: R**

## NJPAC's Absolut Sounds of the City seeks performers for '03 summer music series

*"If you scanned all the cities in the United States looking for the best urban scene on a summer night, this one would be hard to beat."*

— David Grant, Executive Director, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Newark — Absolut Sounds of the City, New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJPAC) acclaimed free outdoor summer music series, is seeking musicians to perform as part of its 2003 series of concerts in Theater Square, NJPAC's public plaza (Thursdays, June thru August).

Offering the most diverse music anywhere in the state, the series brings together thousands of people with over 40 new and emerging music groups in downtown Newark. Three groups are featured per evening, each performing one 4560 minute set. An honorarium is given to each group selected. Artists are also given the opportunity to present and sell their CDs and tapes and promote other upcoming area performances.

The Sounds of the City committee is currently canvassing the area's clubs and live music venues looking for groups for the fifth anniversary series. Musicians are required

to submit an entry form along with a CD or cassette demo and basic biographical information no later than Wednesday, January 15 2003. Sounds of the City committee members will review the submissions and groups will be selected and notified by mid-May. Groups are selected based on a combination of artistic integrity and NJPAC's desire to represent a variety of music.

For more information on Absolut Sounds of the City contact Elisabeth Ssenjovu at 973-353-0057, or via email [ssenjovu@yahoo.com](mailto:ssenjovu@yahoo.com).

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located on the Newark Riverfront near Gateway Center, Newark's Penn Station and the Ironbound District in downtown Newark.

Funding for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center has been made possible through a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## 2002-2003 SEASON NJPAC New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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#### MAYNE MENTSHN (MY PEOPLE) \*

Carolyn Dorfman  
Dance Company  
Sunday, December 8 at 2:00  
Ages 12 & up • Victoria Theater  
Adult \$19 Child \$10

#### SONGS OF THE SEASON \*

Pro Arte Choral &  
The William Paterson University  
Jazz Ensemble  
Sunday, December 15 at 3:00  
Ages 9 & up • Victoria Theater  
Adult \$19 Child \$10

#### LOS PLENEROS DE LA 21 \*

Three Kings Day Celebration  
Saturday, January 4 at 2:00  
Ages 8 & up • Victoria Theater  
Adult \$19 Child \$10

#### NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

Lorin Maazel, conductor  
Julia Fischer, violin  
Friday, January 10 at 8:00  
Tchaikovsky: *Romeo and Juliet*  
(*Overture-Fantasy*)  
Sibelius: *violin Concerto*  
Stravinsky: *Petroushka*  
Prudential Hall • \$71-\$16

#### REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER \*

KING, JR. CELEBRATION  
NJPAC Jubilation Choir  
with special guests  
ALBERTINA WALKER and  
DOROTHY NORWOOD and special  
guest speaker OSSIE DAVIS  
Thursday, January 16 at 7:00  
Ages 12 & up • Prudential Hall  
Adult \$29 Child \$16  
Pre-Performance Reception at 5:00  
The Chase Room • \$31  
(does not include performance ticket)

#### FRED HO AND THE AFRO ASIAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE

*Voice of the Dragon: Once Upon  
a Time in Chinese America*  
Saturday, January 18 at 7:30  
Victoria Theater • \$31

#### BRAD MEHLDAU

Sunday, January 19 at 2:30  
Victoria Theater • \$36

#### RONALD K. BROWN/EVIDENCE

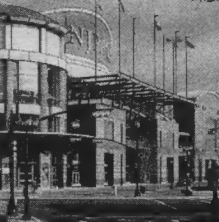
Saturday, January 25 at 7:30  
Victoria Theater • \$31

#### Cuban Roots & Rhythms:

THE CHUCHO VALDÉS BAND  
CHARLIE HADEN'S NOCTURNE  
Saturday, February 1 at 8:00  
Prudential Hall • \$49-\$13

#### GERMAINE ACOGNY AND VINCENT MANTSOE

*Senegal to South Africa:  
New Solo Choreography*  
Friday, February 14 at 7:30  
Victoria Theater \$31



### THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS with OLETA ADAMS, PEABO BRYSON, JON SECADA and JODY WATLEY

Tuesday, December 10 at 7:30

Grammy® Award-winning song stylist Peabo Bryson ("Beauty and the Beast," "A Whole New World") headlines this evening of unforgettable music that welcomes platinum-selling songstress Oleta Adams, Grammy®-winning Latin pop sensation Jon Secada, and pop diva Jody Watley. Each artist will perform some of their greatest hits along with a variety of inspiring holiday music, backed by an orchestra and gospel choir.

Prudential Hall • \$59-\$16



### A JOYOUS GOSPEL HOLIDAY

NJPAC Jubilation Choir  
with special guest DARYL COLEY

Thursday, December 19 at 7:00  
Ages 12 & up

Join the acclaimed 120-voice NJPAC Jubilation Choir with Daryl Coley, a dynamic presence in Gospel music, for this rousing holiday concert. Presented as part of NJPAC's Kwanzaa Festival and Marketplace.

Prudential Hall • Adult \$29 Child \$16  
(Sections P, A, & B are sold-out)



### THE SPIRIT OF KWANZAA

Ko-Thai Dance Company

Friday, December 20 at 7:00; Saturday, December 21 at 2:00 & 5:00  
Ages 5 & up



Celebrate Kwanzaa with a company devoted to the preservation of traditional African, African American and Caribbean dance and music. Their electrifying dance performances utilize traditional instruments, authentic costumes and infectious music. This performance will begin with a Kwanzaa ceremony led by Chuck Davis, C. Katunge Mimy and Foluso Alamide. Presented as part of NJPAC's Kwanzaa Festival and Marketplace.

Victoria Theater • Adult \$19 Child \$10

### THREE MO' TENORS

Friday, December 20 at 8:00



Three acclaimed African American tenors—Victor Trent Cook, Rodrick Dixon and Thomas Young—combine forces (along with a company of supporting musicians and vocalists) for this unique, theatrically staged evening of music that spans opera, Broadway tunes, jazz, blues, gospel, soul and spirituals.

Prudential Hall • \$48 \$43 \$35 \$27 \$19 \$13

### CIRQUE ELOIZE

Nomade

Friday, December 27 at 7:30;  
Saturday, December 28 at 2:00 & 7:30;  
Sunday, December 29 at 1:30



This Quebec-based company combines circus, theater and dance to transport audiences to a world of fantasy and magic. Cirque Eloize presents *Nomade*, a whimsical celebration of song and dance that features stunning acrobatics, juggling, comedy, and dazzling footwork, all set to an original musical score. Fun for all ages!

Prudential Hall • \$49-\$13



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**Newark, NJ 07102**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Under the terms of the "Open Public Meetings Act" P.L. 1975, C. 231, the meeting of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders scheduled for **Thursday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m., will begin at 6:00 p.m.**

Furthermore, please note that the Freeholder Board will enter into Executive Session immediately upon the opening of the meeting. Therefore, members of the public who wish to attend the meeting should be advised that the public portion will not commence immediately.

The location of the meeting remains the same as usual, at the Union County Administration Building, 6th fl., Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, NJ.

Annette Gujano, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders

\$11.02

## LEGAL NOTICE

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) For Master Plan, Hope VI Application and Program Management Services for Asbury Park Housing Authority Solicitation Number: APHA-VI-1127 2002, Solicitation Date: November 27, 2002, Complete Copies of Request for Qualifications will be mailed or faxed by request (732-774-2660 x 39). RFQ Due Date: January 20, 2003, Time: 4:00 p.m. Place: Asbury Park Housing Authority, 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712, Executive Director's Office, Attention: Mr. Harold A. Phipps. Pre-Statement of Qualifications Meeting: December 20, 2002, Time: 12:00 p.m. Place: Conference Room, Written Questions Due By December 18, 2002, Time: 4:00 p.m.

Harold A. Phipps, M.B.A., P.H.M.  
 Executive Director

\$8.57

## LEGAL NOTICE

### HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS COLLECTION, REMOVAL & DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE, RUBBISH & RECYCLABLES

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of the Town of Morristown (hereinafter called the Authority), in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, at the Administration Offices of the Authority, located at 31 Early St., Morristown, NJ 07960, on **January 9, 2003 at 10:30 a.m.**, prevailing time. All bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at that time, for a single complete contract. The Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in bids and to reject any and all bids if it is in the best interest of the Authority to do so.

All work incidental thereto, in accordance with specifications.

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond in the following amounts:

BIDS	AMOUNTS
Up to \$200,000	10%
\$200,000-\$400,000	\$20,000
over \$400,001	5%

Bids must be accompanied by consent surety regardless of whether a check or Bid Bond is submitted. All Bonds and Consents of Surety must be written by Surety Companies listed in the most recent Circular Number 570, United States Department of Treasury.

The Contract Documents are on file and can be obtained at the Administrative Offices of the Authority. **DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE MAILED.**

The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish an acceptable Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bond, written by a Surety listed in the most recent Circular No. 570, United States Department of the Treasury, to the Authority may prescribe and with such Sureties as they may approve.

All Bidders must be authorized to do business in New Jersey. Any Bidder which is a corporation not chartered under the Laws of the State of New Jersey must submit an affidavit certifying that said corporation is authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Public Law 1975, c. 127, which pertains to "Non-Discrimination" and "Affirmative Action," and Public Law 1977, c.33, which requires a Statement of Corporate Ownership.

David Gardner, Executive Director  
 Morristown Housing Authority

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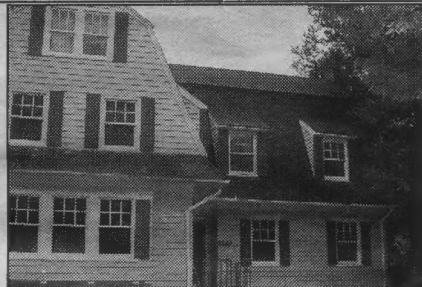
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# Calendar

## Community

Newark — Women with a Vision Ministries, Inc., is accepting donations of used coats and a new wrapped toy for their Christmas drive from now until Saturday, December 14. To arranged a pick-up call 973-374-6000.

Bloomfield — The Student Volunteer Center at Bloomfield College invites the public to participate in a holiday food drive. Drop off non-perishable food items in the bins located in the Office of Career Services, 12 Austin Place or at 185 Liberty St. in Bloomfield. For info call 973-748-9000 ext. 132.

From now through May 1, 2003, tenants in unheated apartments can complain to the "No Heat Hotline." Call 973-733-6471 for more info.

Union — Kean University will host a seven-week winter soccer academy for boys and girls ages 5 to 16 from January 31 to March 14. The registration fee is \$89. For info call Tony Oshrimenko at (908) 737-5807.

Newark — Community movie "Bargain Tuesdays" on Springfield Ave. See two movies for the price of one. 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. tickets (adults for children), \$4.00, 6:00 p.m. until closing two adults, \$7.00 and two children's tickets, \$4.00. For more info call 973-642-5555 or 973-642-4708.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Newark — The People's Organization for Progress will observe the 47th Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott at Abyssinian Baptist Church, 224 West Kinney Street beginning at 7:00 p.m. For info call 973-801-0001.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Newark — The Jersey Battered Women's Shelter will host a holiday toy drive for needy children at an installation luncheon at Newark Airport Marriott. For more info call 973-571-9701.

Jersey City — The Lee Hagan Africana Studies Center will hold its annual Kwanzaa celebration in the Michael Gilligan Student Union, Multipurpose Room at the New Jersey City University from Noon to 2:00 p.m. For info call 201-200-3524.

## Business

### ONGOING

The IRS is seeking volunteers for its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program throughout New Jersey. For more info call 973-645-3853.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

New Brunswick — New Jersey Economic Development Authority will host a program to help businesses meet their client's financial

needs and provide affordable financial assistance for businesses of all sizes. For more info call 609-292-0181.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Newark — NJIT Procurement Center will host a free workshop for small business on how to do business with the federal & state government for 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at NJIT. For more info call 973-596-3105.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

New Brunswick — The NJ Chamber of Commerce will hold its board meeting at 3:30 p.m. and a reception will follow at 6:00 p.m. Location: TBA. For info call 609-989-7888.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Newark — The next meeting in the Newark Public Schools Business Opportunity Program Series will take place from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 200 Washington Street. For more information call 973-733-7338.

Jamesburg — NJ Chamber of Commerce will host an issues breakfast with state Education Commissioner William L. Librera at Forsgate Country Club from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. For fees and info call 609-989-7888.

Trenton — Pathfinder Consulting Group will hold a MEGA JOB FAIR at the Sovereign Bank Arena from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more info call 609-656-3200.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Newark — George McNeil of the Gilbane Building Company will discuss how to gain access to lucrative building contracts at the Senator Wynona Lipman Saturday Seminar Series to be held at Essex County College from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information call 973-877-3395.

Jersey City — A workshop on "Expanding Existing Business" will be offered at the New Jersey City University Small Business Development Center, 20 College St from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For info call 201-200-3426.

## Heartbeat

### ONGOING

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center offers individuals with arthritis and their families programs that offer proper exercise techniques and other strategies for decreasing pain. For more info call 973-923-2348.

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center offers health education and counseling for adolescents at 4:00 p.m. in the Family Health Center. For more info call 973-923-2348.

Clara Maass Medical Center offers adult CPR pediatric courses. For



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19** — New Jersey Performing Arts presents A Joyous Gospel Holiday with special guest Daryl Coley and the NJPAC Jubilation Choir at 7:00 p.m. in Prudential Hall. For ticket info call at 1-800-GO-NJPAC.

more info and to register call 973-450-2709.

Every Monday and Friday, Union Hospital offers free blood drives at 3:00 p.m. For more info call 1-480-BLOOD-NJ.

Every Thursday, Irvington General Hospital offers free support groups for gay men with HIV/AIDS at 12:00 p.m. For more info call 973-275-0210.

Every Friday, Irvington General Hospital offers free support groups for women and men with HIV/AIDS at 10:00 a.m. For more info call 973-275-0210.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Newark — The Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark will host the 16th Wine Tasting Benefit in the Engelhard Court of the Newark Museum. For more info and tickets call 973-242-1200.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Paterson — Kujichagulia Bookstore will host an HIV/AIDS gospel benefit at 1:00 p.m. in the theatre of Passaic County Community College. Ticket donation is only \$10.00. On Friday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m., a HIV/AIDS awareness kick-off will also be held at Kujichagulia with author and HIV survivor, Conscious. For more info call 973-278-0919.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

East Rutherford — The Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark will host an annual Christmas party for its members at the NJ Nets Champion Center. For more info call 973-242-1200.

Morristown — A meeting about neurofibromatosis is being held in the Malcolm Forbes Amphitheater at Morristown Memorial Hospital from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. For more info call 973-971-5000.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

New Brunswick — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will present a free information workshop dealing with HIV/AIDS service for providers

and the general public from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square. For info call 1-800-FREELAW, ext. 7518.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

New Brunswick — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation presents a free seminar of Domestic Violence from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square. For info call 1-800-FREELAW.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

New Brunswick — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation presents a free seminar of Financing Long-Term Health Care from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square. For info call 1-800-FREELAW.

## Artz

The Holiday Light Spectacular at PNC Bank Arts Center is open from now through January 1 2003. Come see the dazzling display Sunday-Thursday from 5:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Newark — African Globe presents Music Lab every Friday through Dec. 20th at 7:00p.m. with special guest DJ's. For more info and to audition, call 973-624-1584.

Newark — NJPAC & WBGO presents Jazz for Teens. Classes will be held on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education, located at 24 Rector St. All students will perform at the final concert in Victoria Theater on May 17, 2003.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Morristown — The Community Theatre presents performances by African Presents: Steve Green at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 973-539-8008.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Morristown — The Community Theatre presents Detroit's Joyous

Voices Band and Choir in Oh Holy Night: A Gospel Christmas at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 973-539-8008.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

New York — The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture will present Nativity: A Life Story starring Stephanie Mills, BeBe Winans and Phylicia Rashad at 8:00 p.m. at The United Palace Theatre, 175th St & Broadway. For more info and times for Saturdays show, call 212-491-2206.

### THURSDAYS - SUNDAYS DECEMBER 12 THROUGH JANUARY 5

Morristown — The Bickford Theatre at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Roads premieres Neil Simon's I Ought To Be In Pictures on Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. For info call 973-971-3706.

## Religion

### ONGOING ON THURSDAYS

Newark — The Network of Christian Men, Inc., in cooperation with the Newark Literacy Campaign, Inc., seeks male and female volunteers to tutor adults, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. To become a tutor, or to receive tutoring contact Isaac Thomas, Jr., at 973-371-9741, or Stanley Crawford at 973-623-4001.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8,

East Orange — The Essex Chorale presents its 22nd free performance of "The Messiah" by George Frederick Handel, 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Christ Episcopal Church, 422 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd. For info call 973-230-4023, or 973-874-3986.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11,

Newark — Women's Bible Study will be held at St. James A.M.E. Church, 588 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19,

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20,

Newark — Women with a Vision Ministries, Inc., will distribute used coats and clothing for families at the Franklin-St. John's United Methodist Church, 142 Maple Street. For info call Linda Owens at (973) 374-6000.

**Mail your calendar  
events and photo-  
graphs at least two  
weeks in advance to:**

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# Newark gives shoppers free parking through December 25

**NEWARK** — Newark shoppers are getting a gift of free parking to encourage them to make their holiday purchases in Newark's downtown and neighborhood retail areas, as the city is offering free parking on its streets from now through December 25.

The program went into effect on November 29 and the city resumes collecting from the meters on December 26. Until then, all 1,600 parking meters on the streets of Newark will be covered in a white plastic bag with green and red lettering stating "free parking"

*"We are doing this to encourage people to come to and stay in Newark to do their holiday shopping and dining. We welcome our holiday customers, and hope they will find Newark a friendly and convenient source for all their shopping needs."*

## Sharpe James, Mayor of the City of Newark

complements of Mayor Sharpe James and the City Council, and no charges will be assessed for parking at meters.

The city has parking meters

in all five wards, but most are in the central business district.

"We are doing this to encourage people to come to and stay in Newark to do their

holiday shopping and dining," said Mayor Sharpe James. "We welcome our holiday customers, and hope they will find Newark a friendly and convenient source for all their shopping needs."

The program of waiving parking charges is a regular event, and is run by the municipal Department of Finance. While charges for parking meters are being waived, fines for double parking, parking in prohibited zones, or on street cleaning days, remain in effect, and will be enforced. Municipal ordinances banning parking at

bus stops or at fire hydrants also remain in full force.

Some observers have noted, however that office workers and college students often use the month long free parking program for their cars, and that the downtown central district loses money annually as a result of the "good will," but officials believe that in the long run it helps downtown businesses.

"I welcome our holiday shoppers to America's destination city, hope they enjoy their shopping, and urge them to drive safely," the mayor said.

## Newark 'City Spaces Program' dedicates playground at transformed McKinley Elementary School

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is scheduled to hold their groundbreaking of a new playground at Newark's McKinley Elementary School, located at 1 Colonnade Place at noon on Thursday, December 5.

The playground was created through the Newark City Spaces program of the Trust for Public Land in partnership with the school and the Greater Newark Conservancy and other community groups. When completed, the playground will provide a vibrant new safe and engaging alternative recreation area for youth to have fun, learn and grow.

The celebration at McKinley playground will feature students from the McKinley School donning hard hats for the work of beginning the construction process. The children will also present the final playground design and explain the design process in which they participated.

The McKinley School, located in the Central Ward, currently educates over 1,000 students in kindergarten through the eighth grade had only a large asphalt lot for a playground, prior to being selected as a TPL project.

When completed in the spring of 2003, the two acre park will include play and climbing equipment, a full court and half court basketball court, running track, a playing field, swings, a jungle gym, shade, trees and an outdoor classroom.

The Trust for Public Lands City Spaces program is a groundbreaking public-private partnership dedicated to providing permanent, community managed recreation spaces. TPL's innovative approach is designed to involve children and community members integrally in the development of new parks. TPL orchestrates a unique participatory design

process to elicit the direct and active involvement of local students, teachers, parents, and community volunteers in the establishment of new play spaces. TPL's uses an innovative approach "designed to involve children and community members integrally in the development of their new pairs," according to a spokesperson for the national conservation group.

The organization strives to select sites that have the greatest need for parkland, and where there is an enthusiastic and able local partner available to assume responsibility for the long-term management and program of the site. TPL has established parkland that is anchored by a school and the open space can also be used by the surrounding community.

The projects completed in Newark to date include the St. Columba Peace Playground — completed in 1995, and was the first TPL acquisition and development project in Newark; the Maple Avenue School Playground, the Louise A. Spencer School Playground, the Quitman Street Community School Playground — which is the largest TPL playground to date; and the William H. Brown Academy Playground.

Future TPL project in Newark include the Mildred Helms Park and Playground — located in the South Ward and in one of Newark's most physically devastated areas; the Hayes Park West/Nat Turner park, the Rafael Hernandez School, which similar to the McKinley School, was only an asphalt lot and Kasberger Field.

Kasberger Field, located near the western edge of Branch Brook Park, is frequently used by local sports teams. TPL will convert it into a safer, multi-purpose playing areas and may include a playground for younger children.



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